

New Hampshire's Water Quality Criteria for Turbidity

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History of the NH Turbidity Criteria

- **By 1971:** <5 NTU in Class A; <10 NTU in trout waters and <25 NTU elsewhere in Class B/C.
- **1990:** None unless naturally occurring in Class A; <10 NTU above background for Class B/C
- **2008:** Criteria the same; background defined for enforcement purposes.



Figure 1: Sample Turbidities (Newell, 2001)

Other Relevant Criteria in NH

- Env-Wq 17083.08
Benthic Deposits
- (a) Class A waters shall contain no benthic deposits unless naturally occurring.
- (b) Class B waters shall contain no benthic deposits that have a detrimental impact on the benthic community, unless naturally occurring.



The Effects of Increased Turbidity

Impacts on Designated Uses

- Aquatic Life
 - Suspended sediments
 - Bedded sediments
- Recreation
- Drinking Water Supply



Process for Reviewing the NH Turbidity Criteria

- ✓ Triennial Review hearing
- ✓ Background research by DES
- ✓ Presentation to WQSAC

Form subcommittee and provide direction for next steps